



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 13, 2006

H.R. 4941

Homeland Security Science and Technology Enhancement Act of 2006

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Homeland Security
on June 14, 2006*

SUMMARY

H.R. 4941 would authorize the appropriation of such sums as necessary for fiscal years 2007 through 2009 for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to carry out research and development programs to improve rail and mass transit security. The bill also would authorize the appropriation of sums necessary for fiscal year 2007 for DHS to support research and development programs to improve the security of information systems. Finally, the legislation would require DHS to prepare several reports and plans relating to the use of technology to enhance national security. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4941 would cost about \$140 million over the 2007-2011 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts.

H.R. 4941 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no cost on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 4941 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 750 (administration of justice).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Estimated Authorization Level	58	40	40	0	0
Estimated Outlays	18	29	47	28	16

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4941 would cost about \$140 million over the 2007-2011 period. For this estimate, CBO assumes that the necessary amounts will be appropriated near the start of each fiscal year and that spending will follow historical patterns for similar activities.

H.R. 4941 would authorize the appropriation of such sums as necessary for fiscal years 2007 through 2009 for DHS to carry out a research and development program to improve rail and mass transit security. Under the bill, this program would support technologies to protect bridges and tunnels, secure hazardous materials transported by rail, inspect rail cars and stations more thoroughly, and test emergency response and recovery operations. DHS is currently conducting a \$10 million pilot program over 18 months to improve technologies that enhance the security of passenger rail operations. Based on the cost and scope of the pilot program, CBO expects that it would cost about \$40 million annually over the 2007-2009 period to carry out the bill's research and development program.

The bill would authorize the appropriation of sums necessary for fiscal year 2007 for DHS to support research and development programs to improve the security of information systems. For fiscal year 2006, \$16.7 million was appropriated for cybersecurity research and development programs in DHS. Based on that level of funding, CBO estimates that an authorization level of \$17 million for 2007 would be sufficient to carry out this provision.

This legislation also would require DHS to prepare several reports and plans relating to the use of technology to enhance national security. Based on the costs of similar activities, CBO estimates that it would cost about \$1 million in fiscal year 2007 to carry out those provisions.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 4941 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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